



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

USAID empowers young Armenians to access education, improve their economic opportunities, and become active citizens

With almost half of the population under the age of thirty, youth in Armenia have the potential to act as agents of change in their communities and propel economic growth. However, they must first overcome lack of access to equal education, critical skills gaps, few productive outlets for civic engagement, and lack of access to employment opportunities, particularly in remote and border communities. To address these barriers, USAID programming utilizes the Positive Youth Development framework, a holistic approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families.

SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

USAID improves the lives of the most vulnerable children and their families by strengthening Armenia's social protection and safety nets through effective community-based social work and the reintegration of children into family environments. USAID also works with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport to adapt physical environments at community schools and pedagogical support centers to ensure equal access to education for children with disabilities and/or special education needs.

DEVELOPING ARMENIA'S WORKFORCE

USAID reduces barriers to entry for youth into Armenia's labor market by supporting workforce readiness and skills development. USAID collaborates with the private sector to identify critical education and skills gaps, providing tailored training in technical and soft skills to strengthen the competitiveness of Armenia's young labor force and build linkages to occupations in key and/or growing sectors.

PROMOTING CIVIC & POLITICAL ACTIVISM

USAID strengthens young people's agency and enhances their skills and knowledge for meaningful civic and political participation. This includes providing opportunities for young leaders to participate in internships with national and local government institutions, ensuring the inclusion of youth in political

2021 Results

Overall, 19,926 youth benefited from USAID-supported social services, including:

- 2,347 youth participated in InfoTuns events
- 2,093 boys and girls received special education services at inclusive schools
- 240 youth trained through School of Local Democracy (SLD)
- 104 small grant projects implemented by SLD youth leaders, engaging 3,607 young people
- 201 youth activists & students trained on corruption issues
- 28 young professionals interned with the National Assembly
- 9 schools renovated to improve persons with disabilities' access to inclusive education
- 5 university partnerships established to pilot a civics curriculum

parties and processes, and training cohorts of youth activities to identify and raise issues of local and national importance to their government representatives. USAID also fosters active citizenship, democratic governance, and human rights among youth through strengthening civic education in universities and schools.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Strengthening of the Inclusive Education System works directly with the Ministry to strengthen Armenia's inclusive education system in order to implement national child welfare reforms. Through small-scale adjustments in selected schools and pedagogical-psychological centers, the project ensures that learning environments are physically adapted to be inclusive of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

2016 - 2023 | Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport | \$0.82 million

Community Level Access to Social Services (CLASS) promotes the establishment of community-based social services in Armenia through the introduction of a community-based social worker position within local government and by enabling communities to identify, prevent, and address their social issues and provide support to Armenia's most vulnerable children.

2017 - 2024 | World Vision Inc | \$2.7 million

Strengthening Electoral Processes and Political Accountability in Armenia (SEPPA) builds government and political party capacity to respond to strategic political and electoral priorities and political accountability. SEPPA has established a partnership with universities across Armenia to pilot a civics and democracy course and an internship program with the National Assembly for aspiring young leaders. It also strengthens the agency of youth engaged in political parties and their capacity for grassroots outreach.

2018 - 2025 | Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (IFES, IRI, and NDI) | \$21.6 million

Leading for Independent Living promotes independent living and the inclusion of persons with disabilities - including youth and young adults - by facilitating accessible and sustainable community-based support and services in Lori and Shirak marzes. Independent living centers are managed by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities.

2019 - 2022 | Mobility International USA | \$1 million

Armenia Civics for Engagement instills civic responsibility, knowledge, skills, values, and motivation from a young age to ensure that young people become more engaged and knowledgeable citizens. USAID supports the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport to introduce civic education in schools and engages youth in non-formal civic education in a variety of informal settings.

2022 - 2027 | Project Harmony Inc. | \$5 million

Armenia Workforce Development supports youth empowerment, workforce readiness, and skills development. Assistance promotes a productive and self-reliant workforce, bridges the mismatch between labor market supply and demand, and addresses policy and regulatory constraints on the labor market.

2021 - 2026 | Enterprise Incubator Foundation | \$7.5 million